

from time to time, and other officers of the battalion in the Tower, had desired to send me books and papers to amuse me; but the Governor had forbid it under pretence that improper papers might accompany them. He is a strange fellow! He suffers hares, partridges, woodcocks, &c., to be sent me unsearched; these might contain bellies full of treason.

Monday, 8th October, Mr. Kinghorn, gentleman jailer, called with a witness attending. He apologized, by saying he hoped I would not be offended by the message he came to deliver. He was sent by the Governor to know if I would pay £97 10s., due to the two wardens, for one year's attendance upon me. That formerly such demands were sometimes discharged by state prisoners. I laughed, then replied, "This is the most extraordinary attempt I ever heard of. 'Tis enough to provoke me to change my lodging. I was sent to the Tower by the Secretaries of State, without money in my pockets, (for aught they knew.) Their Lordships have never supplied me with a bit of beef, nor a bit of bread, nor enquired how or whether I subsisted. 'Tis upwards of three months since I informed their Lordships the fund which had, to that time, supported me, was nearly exhausted. I humbly prayed for leave to draw a bill on Mr. John Nutt, who is indebted to me, which they had been pleased to refuse by the most grating of all denials, a total silence; and now, sir, when it is known to every body that I had no money, a demand of this nature is made for £97 10s. If their Lordships will permit me to draw for money where it is due, I will continue to pay my own expenses, so far as respects myself; but if I were possessed of as many guineas as would fill this room, I would not pay the warders, whom I never employed, and whose attendance I shall be glad to dispense with. Attempts, sir, to tax men without their own consent, have involved this kingdom in a bloody

TOWER OF LONDON, DEC. 20, 1781.

GENTLEMEN:—Almost fifteen months I have been closely confined and inhumanly treated, and even now I have not a prospect of relief. The treaty for exchange is abortive. There has been languor, and there is neglect somewhere. If I merit your attention, you will no longer delay speedy and efficacious means for my deliverance. Enter this and what it may produce on the secret journal, and pardon the omission of ceremony.

HENRY LAURENS.

A friend will ink over the superscription:

“To the President of Congress,
For Congress,
at Philadelphia.”

I pencilled a representation and prayer to the House of Commons, which was presented to the House, and laid on the table. My deliverance being at hand, a copy may be seen in print. Entitled,

“The underwritten representation and petition of Henry Laurens, a native of South-Carolina, sometimes recognized by the British commissioners in America, by the style and title of “His Excellency, Henry Laurens, Esq., President of Congress,” now a close prisoner in the Tower of London.

Most respectfully showeth.

This was my own doing. Mr. Burke had not sent me a form as he had promised.

The pencilled copy now in my possession is much defaced, and in several parts illegible.

The 24th, received the following note from Mr. Oswald:

“Mr. Oswald presents his compliments to Mr. Laurens. He is just come from Lord Stormont's where there was a council. After it broke up, he was called in. Among other things unnecessary to be taken notice of, Mr. Oswald was glad to find their lordships express themselves with such tenderness regarding Mr. Laurens' present painful and

dangerous state of health, and wished that the nature of forms which take some days, did not put it out of their power to give him relief. Mr. Oswald used the freedom to wish, once a resolution was taken, if taken, that the number of these days might be as few as possible. Upon the whole although he had no right to expect a direct message or promise to carry from these ministers, yet he could so well perceive the indulgence of their feelings for Mr. Laurens' present inconvenient situation, that he would freely venture to take his place in case the said days exceed the number that circumstances of indispensable form may require.

R. O.

Monday, 24th December, 1871."

The 28th, Doctor Turton, a discreet sensible gentleman, come by direction of the ministers to examine and enquire into the state of my health, he asked many pertinent questions of myself and Dr. Grant, who accompanied him. Doctor Grant give him a long and deplorable detail. When he had finished, I said to Dr. Turton, "Sir, Doctor Grant's relation is very true applied to my condition some days since, but I should be uncandid if I did not acknowledge that I am not quite so ill at present. The gout is extremely severe in both feet and ankles, but it has removed some of those alarming complaints mentioned by Dr. Grant; in a word, I am much better; but in making your report, sir, you will make some consideration for the state of the mind, as well as the body." The doctor replied, "Most certainly"

The 29th, Mr. Chamberlain, Solicitor of the Treasury, the gentleman who had spoken so kindly to me when I was committed, called, he said, in order to enlarge me, that very evening, Saturday, if I had two gentlemen to bail me. I thanked him heartily for his kind condescension, but being Saturday, my friends would be out of town, and besides I could not be removed for a day or two. Mr. Chamberlain added, I came so early, because I know the judges